

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims and reflect the current amendments to the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A multi-port receptacle comprising:

a monolithic housing defining at least two ports, each port including:

first end defining an opening for receiving a module;

a second end defining a wall; and

a passageway formed between the first end and the second end;

the housing further comprising a divider wall dividing each port;

a base having a planar major surface including at least a pair of end segments adjacent to the first end of the housing, the planar major surface forming a single plane extending between at least two ports and the ports being divided by the divider wall of the housing and the base having integral ejection spring supports formed adjacent to the second end of the housing; and

an electrical connector mountable within the second end, the electrical connector disposed within a cut-out portion of the base so that upon mounting of the multi-port receptacle to a motherboard the electrical connector is substantially colinear with the passageway.
2. (previously presented) The multi-port receptacle assembly of claim 1, wherein the base is formed by a plate extending and enclosing approximately an entire side of the housing.
3. (previously presented) The multi-port receptacle assembly of claim 1, wherein the base includes first mounting features for latching to corresponding second mounting features of the housing.

4. (previously presented) The multi-port receptacle assembly of claim 1 comprising the housing injection molded of plastic.
5. (previously presented) The multi-port receptacle assembly of claim 1, wherein the base is formed of a metal plate.
6. (previously presented) A multi-port receptacle of claim 1, wherein the ports include a first mounting guide and the electrical connector includes a second mounting guide to correspondingly engage the first mounting guides in order to mount the electrical connector within the ports.
7. (previously presented) A multi-port receptacle of claim 1, wherein the base includes a ejection spring support at the second end having the cut-out formed therein.
8. (previously presented) The multi-port receptacle assembly of claim 7, wherein the contacts of the electrical connector are generally coplanar with the cutout and a major surface of the base.
9. (previously presented) A multi-port receptacle assembly of claim 8, wherein the ejection spring support includes ground tabs protruding into the passageway of the port.
10. (previously presented) The multi-port receptacle of claim 1, wherein the housing is metalized.
11. (previously presented) The multi-port receptacle assembly of claim 1, wherein the housing is plated.

12. (previously presented) The multi-port receptacle assembly of claim 1, wherein the base is segmented by a group of at least six first mounting features forming a perimeter of each segment and a plurality of second mounting features of the housing corresponding to the first mounting features in order to securely attach the housing and base together.

13. (currently amended) A method of assembling a multi-port receptacle comprising the steps of:

providing a base having a planar major surface forming a single plane extending between at least two ports and a first mounting feature;

providing a monolithic housing that defines the at least two ports and including a second mounting feature, a first end and a second end;

mounting an electrical connector within the second end of each port; and

mounting the housing to a base having the first mounting feature mated to the second mounting feature of the housing.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the electrical connector is slidably engaged within each port of the housing along mounting guides protruding within the port.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 13 including the step of inserting the base horizontally along the passageway of each port so that a ejection spring support of the base having a cutout slides over the electrical connector mounted therein.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the ejection spring support of the base is received within a gap defined between the electrical connector and the second end of the housing.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of inserting the base vertically into each port so that the first mounting features latch with the second mounting features.

18. (previously presented) The method of assembling a multi-port receptacle of claim 15, wherein the first mounting feature is a tab protruding perpendicularly from the base and the second mounting feature is a boss protruding from the side of the housing.

19. (previously presented) The method of assembling a multi-port receptacle of claim 15 further comprising the steps of mounting the assembled multi-port receptacle assembly to a motherboard where mounting pegs on the base of the multi-port receptacle assembly are aligned and mounted to holes in a motherboard simultaneously with the alignment of contact tails of the electrical connector to the motherboard.

20. (previously presented) The method of assembling a multi-port receptacle of claim 15 further comprising the steps of placing a bezel over the first end of the housing which forms a nose having ground tabs to mechanically and electrically abut the bezel in order to assist in an electrical connection in order to provide a portion of the housing of the multi-port receptacle assembly at the same ground potential as the bezel.

21. (currently amended) An integral multi-port module receptacle and motherboard assembly comprising:

a monolithic housing forming at least two ports, each port including a first end for receiving a module therein, a second end having an electrical connector and a passageway formed between the first end and the second end and each port is formed on at least three sides by walls formed by the housing and on a fourth side by a base plate formed by a planar major surface having a single plane extending between the at least two ports when the housing is attached to the base, wherein the base plate includes an aperture and integral ejection spring supports in which the electrical connector is disposed.

22. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 21, wherein the port includes a pair of mounting guides and the electrical connector includes a pair of channels on the sides of the electrical connector for slidingly engaging the pair of mounting guides.

23. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 21, wherein the aperture is formed by a cut-out in the base plate.

24. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 21, wherein the receptacle only has $2 + n$ parts where n is the number of ports.

25. (currently amended) A multi-port receptacle comprising:

a monolithic housing defining at least two ports, each port including:

a first end defining an opening for receiving a module;

a second end defining a wall; and

a passageway formed between the first end and the second end;

a base having a planar major surface forming a single plane extending between the at least two ports when the housing is attached to the base and integral ejection spring supports

adjacent the second end for receiving an electrical connector therein and the base having a plurality of mounting pins protruding from the base for mounting the base to a motherboard; and the housing attached to the base.

26. (previously presented) The multi-port receptacle of claim 25, wherein the base includes first mounting features for latching to corresponding second mounting features of the housing.

27. (previously presented) The multi-port receptacle of claim 25, wherein the electrical connector is mounted within the cut-out portion prior to mounting the multi-port receptacle to the motherboard.

28. (new) A multi-port receptacle comprising:

a monolithic housing defining at least two ports, each port including:

a first end defining an opening for receiving a module;

a second end defining a wall; and

a passageway formed between the first end and the second end; and

a base having a planar major surface forming a single plane extending between the at least two ports when the housing is attached to the base.

29. (new) The receptacle of claim 28 wherein the single plane includes mounting pins protruding therefrom.

30. (new) The receptacle of claim 28 wherein the single plane includes ejection springs protruding therefrom.